

## **2019 Fire Battalion Chief and Deputy Chief Information Sessions Q & A**

### **Overall Exam Questions**

**1. *For the battalion chief exam, if I fail the tactical will I still take the oral board?***

The tactical and oral board exam will be given the same week. The tactical won't be scored before the administration of the oral board phase, so all candidates will take all phases.

**2. *What is the cutoff date for seniority points?***

The **first** date of the multiphase testing process for the class being tested. This is November 14 for those taking the Fire Battalion Chief Exam and November 15 for those taking the Fire Deputy Chief Exam.

**3. *Can we contact CSC if we have any follow-up questions at a later date?***

Yes, please contact Sheri Goodwin at 614-645-7708.

### **Written Work Sample Questions**

**1. *How long will we get to complete our response for the written work sample?***

3 hours

**2. *How many problems will be included in the written work sample exam?***

There will be just one planning problem for each rank.

**3. *Will Telestaff be tested?***

There will not be any problem on the exam that specifically tests Telestaff, although this DOES NOT mean there will not be any staffing-related decisions or actions that should be completed.

**4. *What rank will the outside assessors for the written work sample be?***

The outside assessors will be deputy chief (or equivalent) or above for the deputy chief test, and battalion chief and above for the battalion chief test.

**5. *Can we use any bullet points in our response to the written work sample problem?***

You should have a narrative response. You may have some listed bullet points within your narrative, but your entire response or the majority of your response should not be bulleted.

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**6. *During the exam, it won't be possible to gather information from outside sources, so how can we incorporate this as part of our response?***

You should create a response and include information based upon what would be reasonable for the problem presented.

**7. *If data or other more detailed information is needed to respond to the problem, will it be included in the given information?***

Yes. For example, in the handout provided, data such as recruitment statistics would be included if it is needed to complete your response to the problem.

**8. *Who will be grading for spelling and grammar?***

The outside assessors.

**9. *Can we use sources? If so, what sources can we use when responding to the written work sample problem?***

Yes, you are permitted to bring your own sources to the examination for your use. Hardcopy versions of the sources designated on the reading list for the written work sample phase may be used. Pre-made outlines, summaries, and other extraneous materials are not permitted.

**10. *Can sources be in binders?***

Yes, if you split the sources up and put them in binders, that is permitted. All sources are subject to inspection by CSC staff.

**11. *Can sources have highlights in them?***

Yes, pre-made highlights are permitted, however you are not permitted to mark in your sources during the test.

**12. *Are the parking meters long enough for the examination?***

Parking meters should not be used. With check-in, instructions, printing out test responses, you should allow 4 hours for testing and candidates will NOT be permitted to leave the examination room to attend to parking meters.

**13. *Will we get scrap paper for use during the exam?***

Yes. Candidates will be given two sheets of scrap paper to use for an outline, etc. However, no information on scrap paper will be graded. All scrap paper will be collected and kept for test security.

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### ***14. In what “person” should the written work sample response be written?***

First person is fine.

### ***15. Is there a planning period that will take place before the test or before our response time begins?***

No, on test day after candidates receive the exam materials and instructions, the exam will begin. You will have a three hour response time, which includes reviewing the exercise.

### ***16. If we cite a statistic or reference in our response how specific does it need to be? For example, if I say 4% and the actual statistic is 2%, would that be ok?***

This will be determined on a case-by-case basis. In general if your statistic is reasonable it will be counted. You can say you would check on the exact number.

### ***17. How will the written work sample be scored?***

There will be a checklist. You will receive credit on a two out of three basis by the assessors. You will receive either a 0, 1, or 2 for each item on the checklist answer key.

## **Tactical Questions**

### ***1. Are subject matter experts being used to develop the tactical exercises? If so, are they internal or external?***

Yes, subject matter experts are being used in the development of exam scenarios. They are fire professionals from outside of the state of Ohio.

### ***2. Are there negative points?***

The key for this examination has not been finalized, but in accordance with past practice, there may be negative points on the examination.

### ***3. Will a diagram of the layout of the area corresponding to the incident be provided during the exam?***

That is dependent on the exercise and the scope of the area included in the emergency response.

### ***4. Will we see changes in the video based upon the actions that we take?***

There will be no visual change to the video based upon the actions that you take. You may verbally request an update of the conditions from crews on the scene.

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**5. *Will all candidates take the test on the same day?***

Yes.

**6. *When we arrive on the scene, we will get a sheet of paper stating what companies are on the scene?***

Yes, you will get a sheet of paper/run card that lists the companies on the scene.

**7. *If I call for an additional alarm will I get a paper with the companies listed on it?***

Yes, but you may not get the paper right away as response times will be factored into when the companies would arrive.

**8. *Do we have a radio or do we just talk?***

There is no physical radio, however you should simulate what you would say to companies on the radio.

**9. *For the deputy chief exam, are the candidates the incident commander?***

Yes.

**10. *How many sheets of paper do we get for notes?***

You get two sheets of scrap paper in addition to any run card(s) you receive.

### **Oral Board Questions**

**1. *Do we need to bring a dictionary or will Civil Service provide a dictionary in the prep room?***

There will be a dictionary on the monitor's table in the prep room that candidates may use.

**2. *Are the notes we take during the prep time graded?***

No, the notes are collected for exam security, but not graded. Your response during the exercises are video recorded and the video response is what will be graded.

**3. *Will all candidates take the test on the same day?***

Yes.